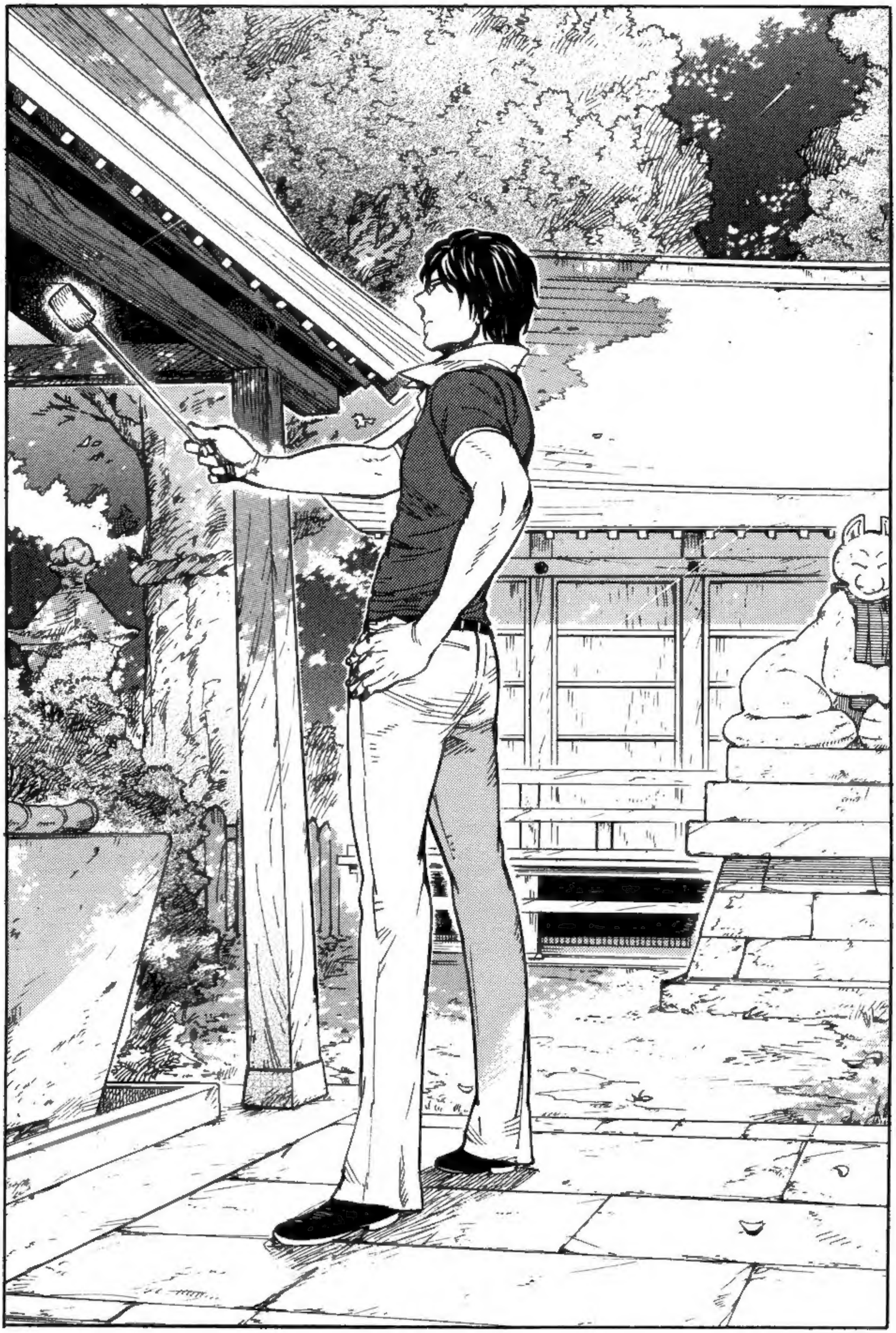
Chapter 10 Things that won't change

SO COLD~

IT'S DEFINITELY A BIT CHILLY TODAY, ISN'T IT

IT GOT SO COLD BECAUSE OF THE RAIN~

AND JUST WHEN WE SWITCHED TO OUR SUMMER UNIFORMS



Chapter 10 Things that won't change

SAY, ASHIHARA MUST HAVE IT REAL GOOD

HOW COME?

DON'T YOU KNOW? HER FAMILY RUNS AN A pretty old one INN

SHE GETS TO BATHE IN THE ONSEN EVERY DAY!

REALLY? THAT MUST BE NICE~

NO~ IT'S NOT LIKE THAT

ESPECIALLY RIGHT NOW SINCE SHIGETO IS AT OUR INN

WHO?

THAT'S RIGHT, WE NEVER HAVE TIME TO HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS~

WOW, THAT MUST BE TOUGH...

WHEN WE HAVE CUSTOMERS, EMPLOYEES AREN'T ALLOWED TO USE THE FACILITIES

AND I HAVE TO HELP AROUND, SO I DON'T REALLY GET MUCH TIME FOR MYSELF...

OH, I DON'T REALLY WATCH HISTORICAL DRAMAS~

AH, SORRY, I DON'T EITHER...

MAYBE MY DAD MIGHT KNOW BETTER...

WHAT? YOU MEAN *THAT* SHIGETO?

HE WAS IN THE NHK HISTORICAL DRAMA SERIES LAST YEAR

IT'S THAT ONE ACTOR, OOGAWA SHIGETO

WHO?

OH, BUT I KNOW HIM!

You only see him in interviews and stuff

WELL, THAT'S NOT SURPRISING, HE DOESN'T SHOW UP ON TV THAT OFTEN

SO WHAT'S THE ACTOR LIKE?

APPARENTLY, IT'S A NEW SHOW AFTER 5 YEARS OF HIATUS

THEY CAME TO DO PHOTO-SHOOTS

WOW~

HE'S THE ONE THAT SAYS "I'LL SEND YOU TO HELL!", RIGHT?

HE WAS "THE PUNISHER-MURAKAMI ZANZOU"!

MY GRANDMA WATCHED IT ALL THE TIME, SO I REMEMBER SEEING IT

HE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM A NORMAL PERSON

BUT DESPITE THAT, HE'S ACTUALLY REALLY NICE TO EVERYONE

HE'S BEEN COMING TO OUR PLACE FOR A LONG TIME NOW, SO HE'S OUR HONORED GUEST

HMM, I'M NOT SURE, I HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED TO HIM...

ESPECIALLY LATELY HE'S GOT THIS SCARY LOOK, AND TO TOP IT OFF, HE'S A MONK

HE'S GOT THIS PRESENCE THAT MAKES HIM REALLY HARD TO APPROACH, SO EVERYONE JUST KIND OF WALKS CAREFULLY AROUND HIM

NOPE, HE'S ACTUALLY A MONK. BUT HE'S REALLY GOOD LOOKING FOR HIS AGE~

HE WAS SUPER HOT WHEN HE WAS YOUNG TOO

A MONK?!

ISN'T IT JUST HIS DEMEANOR?...

SOUNDS LIKE A PERFECT MATCH FOR YOU, FUNABASHI

IKEGAMI-SAN...

YOU LOVE OLDER GUYS, RIGHT?

YUMI-CHAN, WEREN'T YOU REALLY INTO CELEBRITIES?

HM...

You're all about the hot actors, right?

WELL, I'M NOT REALLY INTO OLDER GUYS...

Some guys get an exception, though

DO ANY OTHER FAMOUS PEOPLE COME TO YOUR INN?

WOW, THAT'S AMAZING

WELL, WE DO GET ACTORS AND THE LIKES, BUT IT'S ALWAYS PEOPLE WHO DO HISTORICAL DRAMAS

SPEAKING OF WHICH, IS IT OKAY IF WE COME VISIT?

LET'S ALL GO TOGETHER

I wanna go to an onsen

I'll give you guys a discount~

Sure, you're welcome to visit!

GOOD MORNING, HARU-CHAN

Are you playing with Gin?

I ALREADY TOLD YOU YESTERDAY!

IT'S GOING TO BE A SUNNY DAY!

YEP, YOUR PREDICTION WAS RIGHT~

WOW, WHAT A GREAT DAY~

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!!!

?

I'LL BE BACK AROUND DINNER TIME...

YEP

ARE YOU HEADING OUT FOR YOUR CLUB?

Must be tough on a weekend

SATORU, TELL HER!

SATORU!

AH, YEAH, THAT'S TRUE, HARU'S NEVER BEEN WRONG ON WEATHER BEFORE

HARU IS NEVER WRONG ABOUT THE WEATHER!!

WHAT?

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN'T DO IT

*yawn~

BUT I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER ASKED HIM TO PREDICT THE WEATHER BEFORE

GIN'S PREDICTIONS AREN'T ALWAYS CORRECT

REALLY? THAT'S AMAZING!

IT'S A TASK BETTER SUITED FOR SIMPLETONS~

I've no interest in it

He thinks he's too good for it...

...

IN MY CASE, I SEE A BIT TOO FAR INTO THE FUTURE

about ten days worth

DECIDEDLY PREDICTING THE WEATHER OF THE VERY NEXT DAY IS A BORE... I'M NOT SUITED FOR IT...

HARU'S NOT YOUR SLAVE!

Who do you think you are!

I WOULD HAVE REALLY LIKED IT IF HARU-CHAN CAME ALONG AND CARRIED THEM FOR ME~

OW!!!

A BIG LUMBERING DUMMY LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IT ANYWAYS!!

I SHOULD BE HEADING OUT TOO, I HAVE TO PASS THESE FLYERS OUT

AH

WELL THEN, I'M OFF

GIRL! STOP USING SATORU LIKE THAT OR ELSE I'LL CURSE YOU!!

SHOULD I CARRY IT?...

OKAY, OKAY, I'LL CARRY IT MYSELF!!

DOES THAT MAKE ME A SLAVE THEN?...

...

Well, he's right

THANK YOU, MAKO-TO-CHAN

WHAT NICE WEATHER~

IS IT THAT HARD TO WAIT A BIT LONGER?

HOW ANNOYING

I'LL BE BACK BY THEN!

JUST 30 MINUTES!

ALRIGHT, FINE

...?

Who is that?

ギュウ

HE'S A YAKUZA!

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

ササッ

GOTTA GO HOME...

ピク

HEY, YOUNG LADY

DO YOU LIVE HERE?

神社経

不景気の波

歴史ある神社の危機

I HAD NO IDEA... I DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE SO STRIPPED FOR MONEY...!!

NO WAY, DID HE GET PINCHED BY LOAN SHARKS?

He's always so easy going...

"haha"

ヒィ

Someone help mee eeeeeee~

AHHHH HHHHH

Huh? Wait a minute!!

NO, YOU GOT THE WRONG PERSON!!

HA HA HA

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A YAKUZA FOR SURE...

I'M SORRY...

So you are Yakuza?!

WELL, TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST, YOU AREN'T COMPLETELY WRONG

IT'S NO SURPRISE THOUGH, ESPECIALLY WHEN I DRESS LIKE THIS

I'M SORRY I SCARED YOU

HUH?!

NOW,
THIS IS WHAT A
SHRINE SHOULD
BE LIKE

HA
HA

THIS IS
GREAT

AND IT HASN'T CHANGED ONE BIT

パン パン パン

ざっ

10000

10000

YES

YOUNG LADY

I WAS ACTUALLY TALK-ING ABOUT YOUR GRANDPA

AH, THAT'S FINE

MY DAD? WELL, I THINK HE'S OUT TODAY...

IS THE PRIEST HERE?

THERE'S NO WAY NOTHING CHANGES...

HELL, EVERY-THING DID CHANGE...

IF I REMEMBER, HE PASSED AWAY LONG BEFORE I WAS BORN

MY GRANDPA?

MOM ALSO PASSED AWAY WHILE I WAS VERY YOUNG

THERE WAS ALSO A VERY YOUNG GIRL AROUND THE AGE OF TEN . IS SHE STILL AROUND?

IS THAT SO...

NO, IT'S FINE...

I'M SORRY, YOUNG LADY...

HUH? ~ WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY!

I ASKED YOU SOME VERY TOUGH QUESTIONS!

what a strong girl

FLINCH

GINTARO, WAKE UP

THERE'S A WEIRD GUY HERE

JOKE BOTH YAKUZA AND ACTOR STARTING WITH YAKU

AH, YAKU...

!!!!

WELL, I'M SOMETHING OF AN ACTOR, SO... I'M NOT A YAKUZA

I MEAN, ACTOR!

IT'S ALREADY BEEN 30 YEARS SINCE...

I PAID HOMAGE TO THIS SHRINE ONCE, A LONG TIME AGO...

Ouch!

Don't pull my whiskers!

Wake up!

ARE YOU AN ACQUAINTANCE OF GRANDPA?

NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT

...

じろ...

SOMETHING ABOUT "I'LL SEND YOU TO HELL"...

NO WAIT...

I MEAN...

...

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ME BEFORE ON TV?

じぃ

?

じろじろじろ

かばばっ

WHO'S THAT

ISN'T HE THAT GUY FROM THE DRAMA?

Tatsuo's always watching it

He's got hair now, so he looks a bit different, but it's the same person for sure

YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?!

Is this the same guy?

OH, SO YOU'VE HEARD?

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HAKUHOU-KAN INN?

BUT HE'S A MONK

HE'S GOT THIS SCARY LOOK

OH, YOU MEAN THAT GIRL?

I HEARD FROM HER THAT THERE IS AN ACTOR, MONK WHO WAS STAYING AT HER INN...

I'M IN THE SAME CLASS AS THE DAUGHTER OF THE INN

AH

IF MY DAD WAS HERE, I'M SURE HE WOULD KNOW...

I'M SO SORRY...

HAHA HAHA

yep yep

PROB-ABLY...

YEP, HER!

I THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN A BIT WELL KNOWN, BUT I GUESS I STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

FL

AH... I FORGOT THE NAME...

...

AH, OKAY!

MY NAME IS OOGAWA SHIGETO, RE-MEMBER ME WELL, YOUNG LADY!

...

You're wrong!

Huh?

SHI-GETO?

ISN'T HE ZANZOU?

EVEN GIN KNEW WHO HE WAS...

I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S A FAMOUS PERSON...

On second thought, he's kind of handsome...

...

This is going nowhere...

OH, SO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT!

I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM MY FRIEND...

YOU'RE DOING A NEW SERIES THIS TIME, RIGHT?

UM... MAY I ASK WHY YOU ARE VISITING OUR SHRINE?

ESPECIALLY AFTER 30 YEARS...

SO HE'S NOT ZANZOU, THEN?

THAT'S HIS "WORKING" NAME. HIS REAL NAME IS "SHIGETO"

WHO IS THIS "SHI-GETO"? ISN'T HE ZANZOU?

YEAH!

CONCERNING HISTORICAL DRAMAS...

OH, I'M NOT SURE MYSELF...

HEY, MAKOTO!

So he is Zanzou...I think...

THE PUNISHER - MURAKAMI ZANZOU WAS SPECIAL...

IT WAS MY DEBUT INTO POPULARITY...

ZANZOU S SUPPOSED TO BE A MAN IN HIS TH.RTIES

YOUNG LADY, I MIGHT NOT LOOK IT, BUT I AM ALREADY 55 YEARS OLD...

I WAS THINKING OF MAK NG THIS MY LAST WORK...

...HOW COME?

BUT THAT'S...

HAHAHA, I KNOW, RIGHT?

I DON'T WANT TO BE STUCK IN THIS TYPE-CAST FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE EITHER

AND I'M SURE MY VIEWERS HAVE BEEN NOTICING THAT I'M GETTING A BIT TOO OLD FOR THIS ROLE AS WELL

THE PREVIOUS SER.ES WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE LAST, BUT

BUT EVEN SO, H.STORICAL DRAMAS HAVE BEEN GETTING LESS POPULAR LATELY, AND NO MATTER HOW MANY BEST HIT SER.ES YOU REMAKE, THEY DON T QUITE GET THE SAME NUMBERS AS THEY USED TO

AND FOR GUYS LIKE ME, WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY OTHER CHO.CE

THIRTY YEARS AGO

WELL I ALWAYS GO TO THAT SHRINE

...

BUT WHY OUR SHRINE? ISN'T SHOUBA SHRINE MUCH CLOSER TO THE STUDIO?

SO I CAME TO PRAY FOR GOOD LUCK

AS THAT MAY BE, I AM STILL HOPING THAT THIS FINAL SERIES IS A GREAT HIT

Eventually, I found myself a role

anywhere, but

To pray for the success of our TV programs, the actors and staff

The studio that I was part of had a bit of tradition

I didn't have much else besides that, but I was young and extremely ambitious

But just because of that, I was very full of my own self worth

All I had going for me was my good looks (although that's just what I thought)

I wasn't such an upstanding guy, nor was I well known as an actor

GREEN, WHY DON'T YOU STAY AND HOLD DOWN THE FORT

It would mean a lot for a small fry like me to be invited to go pray with the rest of the staff

But the big shot actor at the time told me [illegible]

I was left behind, and I was furious

I was so angry, I went out and bought myself a map

Apparently, they didn't want me potentially stealing the luck away from the senior actors...

And I immediately went to the next closest shrine

YEP, THAT'S WHEN I CAME HERE

IS THAT WHEN

AND BY CHANCE, AN OLD PRIEST WAS ON THE SHRINE GROUNDS AND GAVE ME A SEVERE SCOLDING FOR MY LACK OF MANNERS

OF COURSE, I'VE NEVER PROPERLY PRAYED AT A SHRINE BEFORE, SO I BRAZENLY DID WHAT I THOUGHT APPROPRIATE

Did that really happen?

...

HARD TO BELIEVE HE PASSED AWAY, THOUGH...

HE TAUGHT ME THE PROPER WAY IN WHICH YOU PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO THE GODS...

haha

IT WAS ALL THANKS TO THIS SHRINE

SOON AFTER, I GOT THE ROLE OF ZANZOU AND I HAD MY BIG DEBUT

...

WAH?!

I WAS THINKING THAT MAYBE COMING HERE MIGHT DO SOMETHING

LIKE REVIVING MY ENTHUSIASM OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

IT'S EMBARRASSING!

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!

...

I'M SORRY, YOUNG LADY

I MADE YOU LISTEN TO A BORING OLD MAN'S TALE

NO, I THOUGHT IT WAS VERY INTEREST-ING!

THERE'S...

NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT!

AFTER ALL, A SHRINE IS A PLACE WHERE GODS LISTEN TO THE WORRIES AND PRAYERS OF HUMANS, RIGHT?

A LONG TIME AGO, I WAS TOLD THE SAME THING

BY THE YOUNG LADY THAT I MET BACK WHEN

WHAT A SURPRISE...

...

MY MOM TOLD YOU THAT?

...

...I GUESS THAT'S TRUE

I THINK THAT'S WONDERFUL!

I THINK IT'S REALLY NEAT THAT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE 55 YEARS OLD, YOU'RE STILL DOING WHAT YOU LOVE

WHEN YOU ARE ACTING, IT'S LIKE YOU'RE BACK TO YOUR THIRTIES!

...

MAYBE THAT'S ONE REASON WHY

I LOVE BEING AN ACTOR SO MUCH...

JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, LET'S KEEP THIS TALK JUST BETWEEN US

PEOPLE LOOK UP TO ME AS A STRONG AND DEPENDABLE PERSON, SO I GOTTA ACT THE PART

HAHAHA!

OH, LOOK AT THE TIME

I'VE GOT TO GET GOING

MAKE SURE YOU WATCH THE SHOW WHEN IT AIRS

OKAY!

I'LL WATCH IT! I KNOW YOU MIGHT REMINISCE ABOUT YOUR YOUNGER DAYS, BUT...

I KNOW A YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOURSELF MIGHT NOT BE INTERESTED IN HISTORICAL DRAMAS, BUT

ALL YOUR FANS ARE WAITING FOR YOU!

Ha ha ha!

HEY, HEY, I CAN'T HAVE A GIRL PITYING OL' ME

ZANZOU MIGHT'A GOTTEN OLD, BUT...

THE ACTOR, OOGAWA SHIGETO

IS STILL KICKING STRONG LIKE THE OL' DAYS!

I'LL SEND YOU STRAIGHT TO HELL!

I'M SORRY I MADE YOU ACCOMPANY US

NO, IT'S FINE.

IT'S MY FIRST TIME WATCHING IT, BUT...

IT'S SURPRISINGLY INTERESTING

WOW~ ZANZOU'S STILL COOL AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!

IT'S AS IF SHIGETO HASN'T AGED ONE BIT, RIGHT?

TATSUO'S NOT VERY PICKY

HIS "NOBUNAGA" FROM THE YEAR BEFORE LAST WASN'T BAD EITHER

HE'S BECOME EVEN BETTER OF AN ACTOR AS HE GOT OLDER!

WHY?!

WHAAAAAAAAAAAAT?!

he surprised me

HUH~

DAD, THAT ACTOR CAME TO VISIT OUR SHRINE NOT TOO LONG AGO

I wish I was there to see him

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

WHAAT?!

ACTU-ALLY...

I HAVE TO SAY...

I TOLD YOU GIN, HE'S ACTING AS ZANZOU, BUT HE'S NOT REALLY ZANZOU!

DON'T YOU GET IT?!

I GOT IT, STOP BADGERING ME!

Even Haru understands that, stupid Gin~

ZANZOU'S NOT WITHOUT HIS OWN SHARE OF TROUBLES, IS HE...

ON TV, HE'S A RELENTLESS KILLING MACHINE, BUT...

A LONG TIME AGO, I WAS TOLD THE SAME THING BY THE YOUNG LADY THAT I MET BACK WHEN

HUH?

LET'S SEE...

WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS HE?

MOM...

KIND OF LIKE...

A KID, MAYBE?

HE WAS A REALLY INTERESTING GUY FOR SURE!

MURAKAMI ZANZOU

OOGAWA SHIGETO

大川重人
Oogawa Shigeto

55 years old

Currently working in Japan as an actor.

Due to his extreme personality, he often acts on impulse, but is actually a very nice person.

A very lovable person and easy to get along with.

By the way, Oogawa is a stage name.